

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W  
-----073810 131127Z /10

O R 131026Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20347

USIS TOKYO FOR FORSTER AND COOPER

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, IEA, IOR/RIM, IOP

STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: THAI MEDIA REACTION--ASEAN-US MEETING

EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 12 IN THE CONSERVATIVE AFTERNOON BANGKOK  
DAILY SIAM RATH (SIAM STATE), OWNED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT  
PRAMOJ, SAID UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD COOPER'S ADDRESS TO  
THE ASEAN-U.S. MEETING IN MANILA "GAVE HOPE TO THE ASEAN COUN-  
TRIES... PARTICULARLY CONCERNING U.S. ASSISTANCE."

AFTER CRITICIZING THE U.S. DELEGATION FOR "REFUSING TO PAY  
ATTENTION" TO TWO ASEAN PROPOSALS FOR REDUCING TAXES COLLECTED  
FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES INVESTING ABROAD TO PROMOTE EXPANDED U.S.  
INVESTMENT IN THE ASEAN REGION AND REQUESTING U.S. INVOLVEMENT  
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"IN SUPPORTING ASEAN'S FIVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS,"  
EDIT RETURNED TO SECRETARY COOPER'S ADDRESS.

EDIT COMMENTED, "COOPER'S EMPHASIS ON THE FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES  
DECLARED BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, THOUGH A RESTATEMENT  
OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THIS REGION, GAVE THE ASEAN COUNTRIES  
GREATER CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"THEREFORE, WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSIDER

GIVING COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN SOON. AND WHEN IT CAN DO THIS, IT WILL BE PROOF OF ITS REAL INTENTION TOWARD ASEAN."

ALSO COMMENTING ON THE COOPER ADDRESS WAS THE INDEPENDENT AFTERNOON CHINESE-LANGUAGE DAILY THAI SHANG JIT PAO (THAI COMMERCIAL NEWS), WHICH SAID SEPTEMBER 9 THAT THE UNDER SECRETARY "MADE CLEAR THE BASIC U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN AT THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEEK PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FIRST AND THEN PAY ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF NATIONS IN THE AREA."

EDIT COMMENTED, "WE REGARD THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE AS AN ACTIVE AND PRUDENT APPROACH. THE U.S. FEELS THAT WHAT SOUTHEAST ASIA NEEDS MOST NOW IS PEACE AND STABILITY. ASEAN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE SETTLED UNDER PEACEFUL AND STABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"THE U.S. PRESENCE AT THE MEETING AT LEAST PROVES IT HAS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THE STATUS OF ASEAN AND EXTENDED ITS HELPFUL HAND TO ASEAN."

EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 12 IN HSING HSIAN JIT PAO (STAR OF SIAM MORNING NEWS) THAILAND'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, SAID THE MANILA MEETING, WHILE PRODUCING NO "ACTIVE AND CONCRETE" RESULTS, HAS NEVETHELESS "PAVED THE WAY FOR THE ASEAN NATIONS TO SEEK AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN BEGINNING 'A NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION' AMONG THEM."

EDIT SAID THE NEXT ASEAN-U.S. MEETING, IN WASHINGTON, "WILL PRODUCE MORE SATISFACTORY RESULTS FOR THE ASEAN NATIONS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS STILL MAINTAINING AN IMPORTANT INFLU-  
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ENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND MUST PROTECT HER LEGAL INTERESTS... IN THE AREA AS WELL. SINCE ECONOMIC COOPERATION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, IT IS NOT ONLY THE ASEAN NATIONS THAT WANT TO IMPROVE COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS. THE U.S. ALSO NEEDS TO EXPAND HER TRADE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WITH ASEAN NATIONS."  
MCGINLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009